GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:739
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
SALE OF MEDICINES THROUGH POST OFFICE
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pharma companies have requested to the Government for sale of medicines through post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the revenue of postal department through various sources?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Some companies have approached the Department to sell their herbal and medicinal products through the post offices. The Circles have made arrangement with those companies for sale of their products. Details of the arrangements are given in the Annexure.

(d) The Department of Posts is offering a few selected services besides postal services with an objective to leverage its network and to utilize its existing infrastructure optimally.These services are broadly as below:

(i) The Department has started a pilot to provide financial inclusion in rural areas under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

(ii) A Pilot for extending disbursement of micro credit to self help groups has also been started in collaboration with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

(iii) The Department has started Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.

(iv) The Department is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.

(v) The Department is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc on behalf of financial institutions like UTI, SBI, Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds, etc.The Department is also distributing the Non Life products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

(vi) The Department provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer service.

(vii) The disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the NREG Act,2005,is done through the post offices in some states.

(viii) The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being undertaken by the Department of Posts in some states.